August 2008

FILTER STRIP

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 393

FILTER STRIP

A filter strip is an area of vegetation established for the purpose of removing sediment, organic material, and other pollutants from runoff and wastewater.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Filter strips are generally located at the lower edge(s) of a field. This will vary somewhat with land use, topography, and objectives. A filter strip removes pollutants from runoff before the material enters a body of water. It also serves as a buffer between water and the fields above the water so that pesticides and other chemicals are not applied directly adjacent or into the water body. Filter strips also reduce sedimentation of streams, lakes, and other bodies of water.

In addition to the above functions, filter strips can be designed to provide one or more secondary benefits of improved fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetics, equipment operations such as field access and turn rows or head lands, recreation opportunities, or livestock forage sources. Plant species selected for planting in a filter strip requires careful planning. There may be multiple objectives that can be accomplished by proper plant selection.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Filter Strip is commonly used in a Conservation Management System on a variety of land uses with practices such as Nutrient Management (590), Pest Management (595) and Waste Utilization (633).

For more information, refer to the practice standard in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and design criteria.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

Filter Strip

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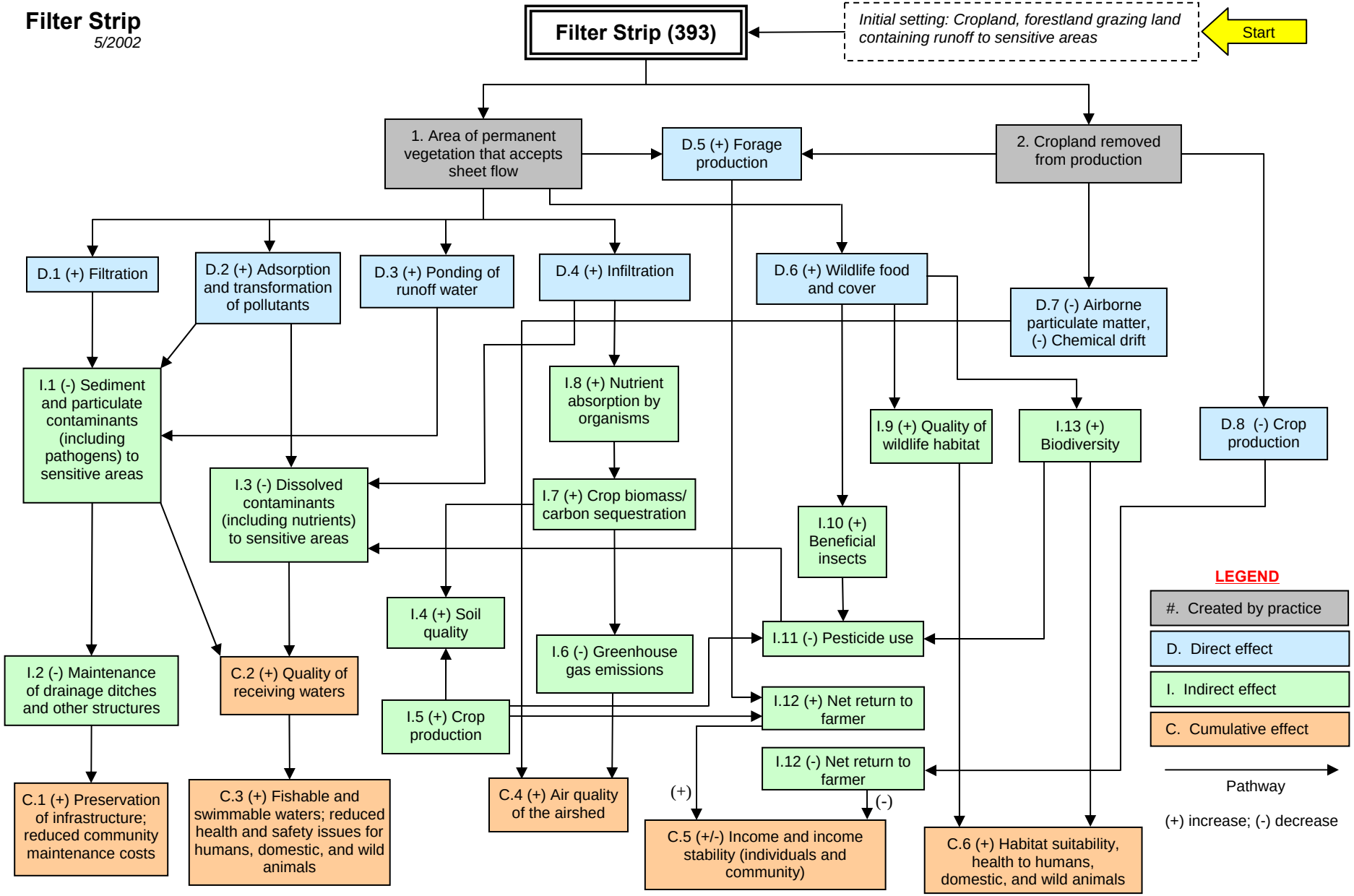

Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.